

REMARKS

Allowable Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 6-9 were merely objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable.

Claims 6-9 have been rewritten into an independent form as new claims 12-15, respectively. Claims 16-19 depend from claims 12-15, further reciting recitations in claim 4. Claims 20-23 depend from claims 12-15, further reciting recitations in claim 5. Claims 24-27 depend from claims 12-15, further reciting recitations in claim 10. Claims 28-31 depend from claims 12-15, further reciting recitations in claim 11.

Thus, new claims 12-31 are all in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ina (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,010) in view of Ziegler (U.S. Patent No.4,820,788).

All the rejected claims have been cancelled. Thus, the rejection has become moot.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

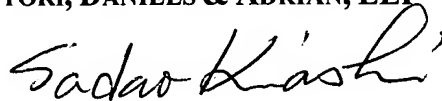
Application No. 10/092,310
Amendment dated November 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2004

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadao Kinashi", written in a cursive style.

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